

MARTIN H. NICKELSEN owns and operates a fruit farm on Belmont street about two miles out from Hood River. It is one of the finest places on the street and has been brought by Mr. Nickelsen to a high state of cultivation and is very productive.

In the little Island of Fohr in the North Sea, on March 8, 1848, occurred the birth of Martin H. Nickelsen. At that time the island was owned half by Denmark and half by Germany. It is but a small piece of land containing from thirty to fifty square miles and has a population of over five thousand. Our subject's father was Peter Nickelsen, a native of Schleswig. Martin was educated in the public schools and then learned the blacksmith trade which he followed until 1871, the year in which he came to the United States. He first settled in California and operated a shop for five years then came to The Dalles in 1879, and worked for the O.R. & N. railway. In 1884 he bought twenty acres on Belmont street where his family resided and he opened a shop. Later he gave up work in his shop and came to his farm which he cultivated for two years and then sold. The place is now owned by Robert Jones. Mr. Nickelsen then moved into town and engaged in the mercantile business for six years after which he sold out and bought his present place of fifteen acres. He raises the usual varieties of fruit and has made a good success of his labors.

On October 22, 1867, in Germany, Mr. Nickelsen married Miss Inge Rorden, who was born in the same island as her husband. It is interesting to note that the island contains eighteen villages and is very busy and full of enterprise. Mrs. Nickelsen's father, Nickels Rorden, was born in the island as also was her mother, Regina (Olufs) Rorden. They are both now deceased. Mr. Nickelsen has one brother, Ingwert C., and three sisters, Marie Wyss, Dorethea, and Catherine. Mrs. Nickelsen has two brothers, Frederick and George and one sister, Nandina Bruhn. Mr. Nickelsen is a member of the K. of P. and of the A.O.U.W. He has held the chairs in these lodges and has been a delegate to the grand lodge. Politically, he is a good staunch Republican and has been school director for years. He was the first treasurer of Hood River. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nickelsen, namely; John R., a blacksmith of Hood River; Christian D., a farmer near Hood River; Rosa S., wife of Ila Nealiegh, one mile south from our subject; Ida, wife of Antoine Frohm, one mile west and foreman in a lumber yard; and Margaret, a school girl, at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Nickelsen are very genial and kindly people, having hosts of friends throughout the country. They have labored wisely and well here, have a nice place and have raised a very interesting family.